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West Yankee on Fire.

A Morenci dispatch says:—One of the most serious fires that ever visited Morenci was discovered in the West Yankee mine shaft at 8:30 Monday night, by night watchman Pat Devlin who noticed smoke issuing from the mouth of the shaft. The blaze originated in one of the lower levels. The fire department responded to the alarm in quick time and up to the time of its appearance on the scene no flames were visible, only a dense volume of smoke issued from the shaft collar.

About the time the hose was coupled and ready for the attack on the fire, flames broke out of the collar of the shaft, and it soon became evident that the entire timbering from the collar to a considerable depth as well as the gallow's frame was doomed to destruction.

The gallow's frame fell in a few minutes after the flames reached the well-seasoned structure that burned like kindling wood. The cages and gears of the hoist went down with a rush to the depths.

The blaze was communicated to the assay office and ore chutes but the flames were extinguished after considerable damage had been done. The electric feed wires were burned, cutting off the power from the concentrator for three hours.

Failing to gain headway against the fire from the top, hose was brought in to the lower levels through the tunnels and a large force of men were put at work bulkheading the entrance to the various stopes. The heat was so intense and the fumes so noxious that the men had to work in short shifts frequently relieved. At noon Thursday it was believed that the bulkheading had confined the fire to the immediate vicinity of the West Yankee shaft, and one or two stopes nearest the shaft. The fire is still smoldering and the full extent of the damage can not now be determined.

Air was admitted to the lower levels as an experiment on Thursday, but the smoldering timbers quickly burst into flames and the vents were again closed. A track was then laid across the shaft mouth and carloads of tailings and dirt were dumped into the shaft to choke it and smother the fire below.

When the fire is conquered the shaft will be retimbered and put again in commission.

The West Yankee is one of the oldest and best of the Detroit company's properties, 3 compartment and about 700 feet deep, the cages being operated by a first motion, hoisting engine. From it is hoisted ore from the West Yankee, Old Yankee and Ryerson mines.

The hoist house, engine and boilers were not injured and comparatively little damage was done above ground.

The loss to the company will be considerable but the accident will not affect the copper output or number of men employed but little if any.

The origin of the fire is not known, but generally attributed to a lighted candle carelessly placed by some employee. No lives were lost and no person seriously injured, though many of the workmen were rendered unconscious through the smoke and fumes.

Great Copper Production.

The copper mines of the United States have produced more than fifteen and a quarter billion pounds of copper, and of this total twelve mining districts have produced in excess of 100,000,000 pounds each according to the United States Geological Survey. These twelve districts, located in eight States, have yielded 94.69 per cent of the total output of the country since 1845, when the total product of the United States was but little more than 200,000 pounds. These districts are Butte, Mont., which has yielded 5,315,000,000 pounds, or 34.75 per cent of the total production; Lake Superior, Mich., which has yielded 4,756,000,000 pounds; Bisbee, Ariz., 1,285,000,000 pounds; Morenci-Metcalf, Ariz., 882,700,000 pounds; Jerome, Ariz., 570,000,000 pounds; Bingham, Utah, 465,000,000 pounds; Shasta County, Cal., 336,000,000 pounds; Globe, Ariz., 334,

700,000 pounds; Ducktown, Tenn., 211,700,000 pounds; Ely, Nev., 125,000,000 pounds; the foothill belt, California, 104,000,000 pounds; and Santa Rita, N. Mex., (where mining is believed to have been begun as far back as 1800) 103,000,000 pounds. All other districts have produced 804,300,000 pounds.

It is interesting to note from the United States Geological Survey's report on copper production for 1910 that the first ten largest producers to-day, although the order is slightly changed. These ten districts yielded 93.84 per cent of the production for 1910. The United States is by far the greatest copper-producing country, our smelter output of copper in 1910 being 56.75 per cent of the total for the world.

Nearly every one of the leading copper-producing districts of the United States, according to the Geological Survey, made a record output within the three years preceeding 1910, and nearly every one of them could have done so in 1910, and nearly every one so far as the ability of the mines to produce the ore was concerned. An indifferent copper market and metallurgical difficulties, however, resulted in a decrease in the output for 1910 for several districts.

The Survey's estimate on January 2, 1912, indicates a copper output for 1911 greater than that of 1910 and nearly equal to the record production of 1909. It is further stated that most of the companies are now in a position to maintain or even increase their present output, so that, if the consumption of the metal will permit, the production of copper in the United States for 1912 may be expected to show a marked increase. It is noteworthy that not one of the leading copper districts of the United States, several of which have been active producers for 30 years or more, has been worked out or shown a decrease in its ability to produce copper.

Nevada Claims Biggest Mines.

L. K. Koontz, president of both the C. O. D. Consolidated Co. of Goldfield and the Manhattan Big Four Co. of Manhattan, Nev., is in New York this week on official business connected with these enterprises and when seen by a representative of this publication, unhesitatingly asserted that a new mining era is under way for Nevada, and that many a mining operator who during the past few years sought other fields in mining development is returning to that state, glad to take a hand in the development of its natural resources.

"I am neither ashamed of my vocation nor its location," said Mr. Koontz "and Nevada today boasts of the biggest gold mine, the biggest silver mine and the biggest copper mine in the United States, these three properties being in rotation the Goldfield, Consolidated property at Goldfield, the Tonopah Belmont Co. at Tonopah and the Nevada Consolidated Copper Co. at Ely. Nevada has also within the past year opened up a coal deposit at Coldale of a semi-bituminous product, which is going to furnish a fuel supply so long lacking. Cheap fuel means cheap costs and with the big mines able to protect themselves by cheap fuel, this coal supply is going to prove a big factor in the development of Nevada's resources.

"At the Manhattan Big Four," said Mr. Koontz, "the general mining public does not realize that over 400,000 lbs. has been taken out of this mine above the 300-foot level. We are now acquiring surrounding properties and are completing negotiations for the construction of a mill which will enable us to treat a lower grade of ore than has been treated before at this camp.

"Those who have been interested in the Diamondfield Black Butte Co. in the Diamondfield section of Goldfield will be glad to know that this organization is now free of debt and that the property leasers are working the property through the company shaft with good results.

Goldfield is still in its infancy, irrespective of the remarkable output of some of its leading mines. Leasers have been making good money in developing the C. O. D. Co., but have been handicapped in being unable to handle

any ore that did not average 30¢ per ton or better. The company itself is working on the 630-foot level of its property and we have run into some copper ore that encourages us to continue developing the showing we have obtained.

"A project of extremely interesting importance at Goldfield is the work which is going on at the Goldfield Merger property. There is no question but what this organization is determined to go to great depth and their shaft has already reached a depth of 700 feet, and is being sunk as rapidly as three shifts can send it down. The company has unlimited capital in its treasury to continue this work.—New York Mining Age.

The Mason Valley Smelter.

A representative of the Times paid the Mason Valley mine a short visit this week and found many things doing at this big property and everything running as smoothly as clockwork. The electric motor—an 8-ton Jeffrey—is kept busy hauling out the loaded cars of ore from the different mill shoots to the tram terminal. This motor runs by trolley and is hauling ten to twelve 2-ton cars each trip. Close to the portal of the tunnel in which the motor operates are large bins into which the ore is dumped and then fed automatically into a large ore crusher located just below the bins. The ore, after being crushed to a certain fineness, drops onto a Jeffrey belt conveyor which takes it to the loading bins. Here, as the tram buckets swing around on the overhead track, they are loaded automatically and then run around to the main cable, are pushed onto the cable, the clamp closes on the second cable and the ore is off on its ride of a mile and a half to the receiving bins at the end of the spur of the Nevada Copper Belt railroad. Here the buckets dump automatically into the ore bins, swing around and return to the mine. The tram is a two cable Lischen and is working perfectly and handling from 300 to 400 tons every day without crowding it in the least. The tram was put in to transport the ore from the mine to the railroad and cost about 75,000. It is one of the many substantial improvements and labor-saving devices that the company has installed for the systematic and economical handling of the big Mason Valley property.

There is an immense amount of ore blocked out in the mine—millions of tons—and 300 tons that is now being shipped to the smelter daily is all being broken, mined and put on the railroad cars with a force of 42 men. This speaks wonderfully well for the manner in which the property has been developed and equipped. It shows that master hands have been employed all along the line. It is a sight to gladden the hearts of not only mining men, who are familiar with such scenes, but of all persons who have an interest in the district, to see things running so smoothly and satisfactorily on this big property. The little electric engine hauling out its string of cars every half hour or so seems like a thing of life, and everything about the mine works automatically making the cost of hauling the ore the minimum. If there is not a new low-record cost per pound made in mining and handling the ore in the Mason Valley mine the representative of the Times will simply have another guess coming.—Yerington (Nev.) Times.

United States Steel.

Another expert accountant has made a report on the earnings and operations of the United States Steel corporation after being permitted to examine the company books without reservation.

He makes the startling discovery that the net earnings for the last nine years have averaged a little over 100,000,000 a year, which is not news to those who are aware that in 1906 and 1907 the company's net earnings were about 160,000,000 a year.

He also finds that J. P. Morgan & Co. received less than 5 per cent commission for financing a 1,500,000,000 corporation which considering the

amount of work involved and the wide distribution which was given to the securities was not an exorbitant remuneration. Compared with the commissions charged some smaller corporations by other banks and bankers for less service, it is very moderate.

This report is made in connection with the investigation which a committee of the house of representatives has been making into the affairs of the Steel corporation. It is also the third made by the government; the first by the commission of corporations and the second by the department of justice.

The cost to the Steel corporation of having all the information desired gathered from its books in three different investigations by the same party or for the same party has not been small. If it did anybody any good afterwards, the cost might be warranted. Up to date, no one has profited anything by it.

The Steel corporation continues to go ahead with its legitimate operations unmindful of government investigations and bearish talk on its securities. It earned more than its common dividend in the last six months of 1911 in an open market for iron and steel when the Republic Iron & Steel company which instituted the cut had to pass the dividend on its preferred.—New York Commercial.

Commercial Mining Company.

Reports in circulation during the past week that the Commercial Mining company in Copper Basin was to begin shipping the high grade red oxide, cuprite and metallic ores to Douglas, were confirmed yesterday when Geo. C. Ruffner dispatched two four-mule freight teams to begin loading today. The dump that has accumulated from the tunnel and winze development, is said to aggregate over 100 tons, and estimates of the grade run to as high as 40 per cent in copper, from which can be gained some conception of the magnitude of the production as the winze sunk from the tunnel is only sixty feet in depth. Crosscutting and drifting from that point have been going on steadily since the rich deposit was cut into, and the extent of which as yet is undetermined.

Water was struck in the bottom of the winze, and until pumping facilities are installed sinking will not be resumed. The points being developed at present are in the zone where the winze was sunk, and reports are in circulation that there is no question but what the determination is the most

note worthy that has yet been accomplished. It is creating considerable discussion in mining circles among copper operators who have inspected the workings.

Cars have been sidetracked at Skull Valley to receive the shipment, and as soon as one car is loaded it will be sent south. Nothing has been learned definitely of the future intentions of the company since the rich strike has been made, but it is believed that in a few weeks more extensive exploitation will be under way than at any time since operations were resumed nearly two years ago.—Prescott Journal Miner.

McCabe District

Again Draws Attention.

John L. Davis, in charge of the Gladstone, McCabe and other interests of the old Ideal Mining and Development company, while in the city yesterday imparted the important information that the two famous producers of years ago, were again coming into prominence. He corroborates reports in circulation of the striking of a new ore body lying parallel to the Gladstone, and which is situated about 280 feet distant from the shaft house of the latter, and several hundred feet from the main workings of the McCabe.

The discovery of the vein was due to a quartz streak on the surface, but which with a few feet of development widened. A shaft is being sunk on the new discovery and is over 37 feet deep. The ores are rich in gold, and there is every indication of a valuable producer being developed. Mr. Davis is of the belief that the vein is nothing more nor less than a continuation of the McCabe, basing this opinion on the mineral characteristics that are in evidence, and which also are similar to the Gladstone. He is very much pleased with the results at the new point under development.

Speaking of the McCabe, he states that James O'Brien is operating under lease, and from old surface workings has cut into a shoot of very high grade ore. This ore will be shipped to El Paso later, and the tonnage extracted with that exposed will be large.—Journal Miner.

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